

NEWSLETTER

of the *WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY*

Volume 21, Number 1

Les Ferge, Editor

March 1994

NEXT MEETING IN MADISON ON APRIL 17

An open house will be held in Madison on Sunday, April 17 beginning at 1:30 PM at the home of Tom and Nina Rocheleau, 3100 Buena Vista. The Rocheleau's home is located on the east side of Madison just off S. Fair Oaks Avenue one block north of the intersection of S. Fair Oaks and Atwood Avenues, indicated on the map appearing on the last page. This will be an informal get-together, with plenty of time for visiting and an opportunity to view Tom's collection, which consists largely of Wisconsin Lepidoptera.

1994 W. E. S. OFFICERS

The results of the election of officers at the annual meeting in December are as follows: President, Gene Drecktrah; Vice-President, Phil Pellitteri; Secretary, Carol Ferge; and Treasurer, Bob Borth. Our thanks to past president Su Borkin for her leadership these last two years. Gene is with the Biology Department at UW-Oshkosh, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

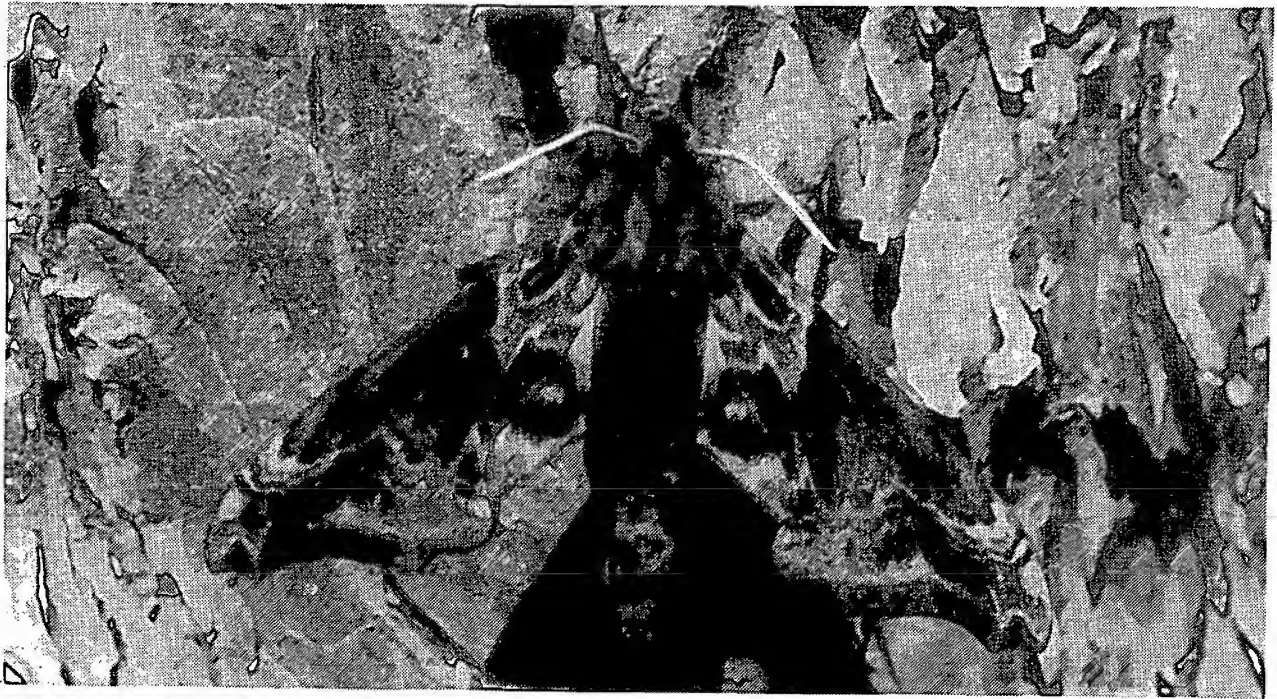
DUES REMINDER

A number of members have not yet paid their 1994 dues. Members paid through 1993 are receiving another dues envelope with this Newsletter. Your prompt attention will be most appreciated. Please note that dues are to be sent directly to the Treasurer, Bob Borth, 6926 N. Belmont Lane, Fox Point, WI 53217. To determine your status, please check the address label on this Newsletter. Appearing after your name will be the year dues are paid for and your membership category (Individual, Family, Sustaining or Patron). Also be sure to notify us of any address changes or corrections when you send in your dues, or notify us at the address below.

1993 W. E. S. PHOTO SALON

Appearing on pages two and three are the winning entries in the Annual Photo Salon held at last December's meeting. First place went to the Blinded Sphinx, photographed by Les Ferge. The runners-up included the Swamp Metalmark by Su Borkin, Karner Blue by Bob Borth, Northern Blue by Hugo Kons Jr, and Hickory Horned Devil by Curt Matzke. This salon was the best yet, with many striking and colorful entries.

The Newsletter of the Wisconsin Entomological Society is published three times a year, at irregular intervals. It is provided to encourage and facilitate the exchange of information by the membership, and to keep the members informed of the activities of the organization. Members are strongly encouraged to contribute items for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please send all news items, notes, new or interesting insect records, season summaries, research requests, and report any address changes to the editor: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562.

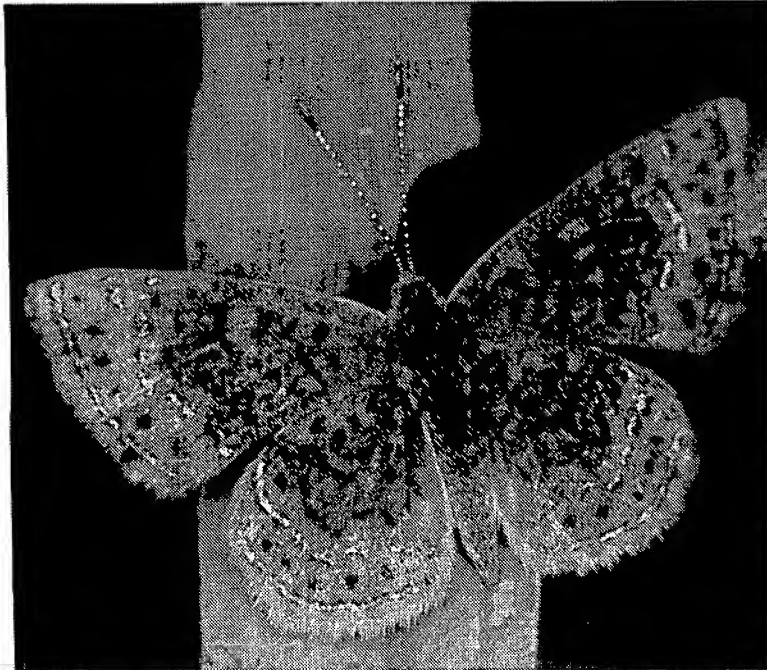


Blinded Sphinx - Les Ferge

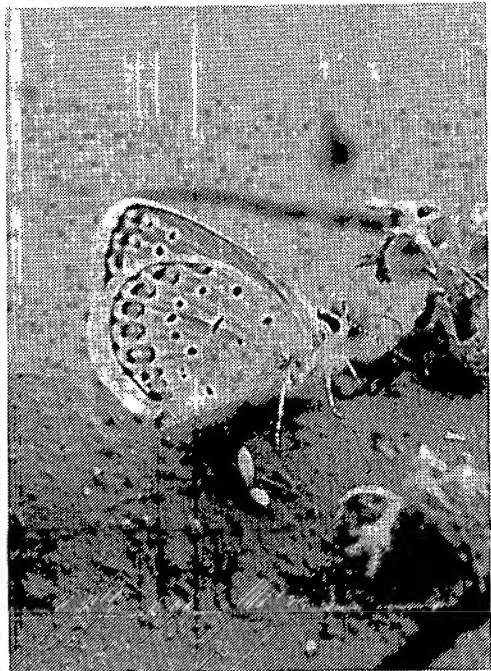


^ Karner Blue - Bob Borth

< Hickory Horned Devil - Curt Matzke



Swamp Metalmark - Su Borkin



Northern Blue - Hugo Kons Jr.

1993 WISCONSIN LEPIDOPTERA SEASON SUMMARY

Coordinator: Les Ferge (LF). Contributors: George Balogh (GB), Tom Barina (TB), Bob Borth (BB), Jim Ebner (JE), Hugo Kons Jr. (HK), Karl and Dorothy Legler (KL), Judi Maxwell (JM), Jim Parkinson (JP), Tom Rocheleau (TR), Clark Schultz (CS), Ann Swengel (AS), Scott Swengel (SS), John Wilterding (JW), Andrew Williams (AW).

Cool and very rainy conditions characterized the season, with butterfly numbers found to be generally below average (CS), to very poor (JE), with butterfly counts indicating numbers 50% of last year (KL). Seasonal phenology was similar to 1992, with butterflies generally appearing later than usual (JE, CS). Only a few migratory butterfly species were recorded, with *Eurema lisa* and *Junonia coenia* the only ones seen in any numbers (KL, HK). In contrast, moth numbers seemed about normal when weather conditions were reasonable for collecting (LF, HK). Despite the prevalent unfavorable weather conditions, 1994 was an extraordinary year for new state record moths. Sixteen macro species were added to the state list, bringing the total to 1143 species. Several migrant moth species were found, with *Magusa orbifera* the most widespread, first appearing in late June, with numerous fresh individuals seen late in the season in many counties (LF, HK, TR, BB, TB).

New county records are indicated by county names in CAPITAL letters, new state records by the STATE notation.

BUTTERFLIES: *Carterocephalus palaemon*, 22-27 Jun, LATE, Winnebago Co (CS). *Hesperia comma laurentina*, 10 Aug, Forest Co (TR); 14-15 Aug, Florence Co (HK). *H. metea*, 22 May, Jackson Co (LF); 1 Jun, Burnett Co (TR); 3 & 10 June, LATE, Marinette Co (HK). *Pompeius verna*, 1 Aug, Fond du Lac Co; 4 Aug, Outagamie Co (HK). *Zerene cesonia*, 1 Jun, Waukesha Co, 1 male (JE). *Eurema lisa*, 23 Jun & 7 Jul, Waukesha Co (JE); 4 Jul, Jackson Co; 18 Jul, Kenosha Co (HK); 19 Jul, Dane Co, 20

Jul, Trempealeau Co, 13 Aug, Grant Co (KL). *Incisalia irus*, 11 May-1 Jun, Jackson Co (AS, TR); 11 May-5 Jun, Wood Co (AS). *I. henrici*, 22 May, Marinette Co (HK); 1 Jun, Burnett Co (TR). *Everes amyntula*, 28 May-1 Jun, Burnett Co, abundant (TR). *Hemiargus isola*, 21 Jul, Kenosha Co (HK). *Lycaeides idas nabokovi*, *Plebejus saepiolus*, 28 Jun, Marinette Co (HK). *Calephelis mutica*, 1 Aug, Fond du Lac Co (HK). *Speyeria aphrodite*, 20 Jul, Grant Co, nectaring on *Asclepias incarnata* (AW). *S. idalia*, 11 Jul-25 Aug, Green, Iowa Cos (AS). *Clossiana eunomia dawsoni*, 21 Jun, Bayfield Co, ovipositing on cranberry (LF); 22 Jun DOUGLAS Co, photo (KL). *C. titania grandis*, 1 Aug, Douglas Co (TR). *Junonia coenia*, 14 Jul-28 Aug, Jackson, Kenosha, Marinette, Outagamie & Walworth Cos (HK). *Coenonympha tullia inornata*, 21 Jun, ST CROIX Co, abundant (KL); 10 Jul, FOREST Co (TR).

MOTHS: THYATIRIDAE - *Habrosyne gloriosa*, 22 Jun, Dane Co (TR). GEOMETRIDAE - *Palaecrita merricata*, 23 Apr, PORTAGE Co, STATE, det GB (HK). *Metarranthus angularia*, 27 May, Outagamie Co, det GB (HK). *Cyclophora nanaria*, 17 Aug, WAUKESHA Co, STATE, det GB, (HK). *Orthanama evansi*, 11 Aug, WALWORTH Co, STATE, det GB (HK). *Acasis viridata*, 28 Jul, Walworth Co, det GB (HK). EPIPLEMIDAE - *Calledapteryx dryopterata*, 16 Jun, OUTAGAMIE Co, STATE, det GB (HK). SPHINGIDAE - *Manduca quinquemaculata*, 22 Aug, ADAMS Co (JP); 17 Sep, Waukesha Co (BB, TB). *Ceratomia catalpae*, 24 Aug, Dane Co (TR); 4 Sep, IOWA Co (JP). *Sphinx eremitus*, 3 Jul, BURNETT Co (TR). *S. luscitiosa*, 21 Jun, BAYFIELD Co (LF). *S. drupiferarum*, 21 Jun, BAYFIELD Co, barrens (LF); 27 Jun, Marinette Co, barrens (BB, HK). *Eumorpha achemon*, 28 Jun, Dane Co (TR). *Deidamia inscripta*, 21 May, PORTAGE Co (HK). *Hyles lineata*, 21 Sep, BAYFIELD Co (LF). ARCTIIDAE - *Crambidia casta*, 28 Aug, Sauk Co, sand prairie; 11-12 Sep, Manitowoc Co, dunes (LF). *Spilosoma dubia*, 27 Jun, Marinette Co (BB). *Phragmatobia assimilians*, 21 May, OCONTO Co (BB); 21 Jun, LATE, Bayfield Co (LF). *Apantesis nais*, 21 Jun, BAYFIELD Co, barrens (LF). *A. carlotta*, 7 Aug, Sauk Co, sand prairie (LF). *Grammia celia*, 29 May, PORTAGE Co (HK). *G. phyllira*, 25 Jun & 24 Aug, Dane Co (TR); 28 Jun & 28 Aug, Sauk Co; 13 Aug, Manitowoc Co (LF). *G. oithona*, 25 Jun & 24 Aug, Dane Co (TR); 28 Aug, Sauk Co (LF). *Pygarctia spraguei*, 22 Jun, PORTAGE Co (HK); 26 Jun, Jackson Co (LF). NOCTUIDAE - *Idia scobialis*, 7 Aug, SAUK Co, STATE (LF). *Macrochilo litophora*, 12 Jul, WAUKESHA Co, in fen, det GB (HK). *Ophiuche minualis*, 17 Sep, WAUKESHA Co, STATE, det GB (HK). *Tathorhynchus exsiccatus*, 19 Jul, WAUKESHA Co, STATE, det GB (HK). *Phytometra ernestinana*, 13 & 18 Jul, WAUKESHA Co (HK); 28 Aug, Sauk Co (LF). *Eudocima materna*, 12 Sep, ASHLAND Co, STATE, one stray or accidental specimen of this tropical species on Outer Is in Lk Superior (M. & J. Van Stappen via LF). *Mocis latipes*, 12 Sep, MANITOWOC Co (LF); 22 Sep, PORTAGE Co (HK). *M. texana*, 16 Jul, MANITOWOC Co (LF); 27 Jul, WAUKESHA Co (HK). *Catocala subnata*, 21 Aug, Trempealeau Co (JP). *C. luciana*, 16, 23 & 29 Aug, Outagamie Co (HK). *C. abbreviatella*, *C. whitneyi*, 31 Jul, Green Co (BB, TB); 7 Aug, LATE, Sauk Co (LF). *C. amestris*, 13 Jul & 10 Aug, Waukesha Co (HK); 15 Jul, Dane Co (TR); 7 Aug, Sauk Co (LF). *Ctenoplusia oxygramma*, 12 Sep, MANITOWOC Co (LF); 16 Sep, PORTAGE Co (HK). *Rachiplusia ou*, 21 Sep, BAYFIELD Co (LF). *Autographa mappa*, 8 & 10 Jul, FOREST Co (TR). *Syngrapha epigaea*, 16 Jul, MANITOWOC Co (LF). *S. viridisigma*, 16 Jul, MANITOWOC Co (LF); 10 Aug, Forest Co (TR). *S. rectangula*, 13 Aug, MANITOWOC Co (LF). *Oruza albocostaliata*, 4 Jul, JACKSON Co, 2nd state record (HK). *Amyna octo*, 15 Jul, DANE Co (TR). *Acronicta tritona*, 21 Jun, BAYFIELD Co (LF); 27 Jun & 13 Aug, MARINETTE Co (BB, HK). *A. quadrata*, 27 Jun, Marinette Co, (BB, HK). *A. superans*, 18 Jul, WAUKESHA Co. (HK). *A. longa*, 22 May, JACKSON Co, STATE (LF). *Apamea cristata*, 8 Jul, FOREST Co, STATE (TR). *A. inordinata*, 12 Jun & 15 Jul, MANITOWOC Co, dunes (LF). *A. impulsu*, 8 & 10 Jul, FOREST Co (TR). *A. lateritia*, 8 Jul, FOREST Co (TR). *Selicanis cinereola*, 20 Sep 1992, MONROE Co, STATE, det R. W. Poole & E. Quinter (J. Maxwell via LF); 17 Sep, JACKSON Co (LF). *Parastichtis suspecta*, 16 Jul, MANITOWOC Co (LF). *Chortodes defecta*, 23 Aug, KEWAUNEE Co, STATE (JW). *Archanara laeta*, 11 Aug, WALWORTH Co (HK). *Macronoctua onusta*, 15 Sep, Marathon Co (JP). *Papaipema lysimachiae*, 12 Sep, MANITOWOC Co (LF). *P. speciosissima*, 17 Sep, JACKSON Co, 2nd state locality (LF). *P. nepheleptena*, 17 Sep, WAUKESHA Co (HK); 25 Sep, 6 Oct, PORTAGE Co (HK). *P. appassionata*, 21 Sep, Bayfield Co (LF). *P. beeriana*, 17 Sep, Waukesha Co, 4th state locality (HK). *P. unimoda*, 19 Sep, BAYFIELD Co (LF). *Hydraecia micacea*, 11 Jul, FOREST Co (TR). *Fagitana littera*, 9 Jul, WAUKESHA Co (HK). *Magusa orbifera*, 25 Jun & 24 Aug, Dane Co (TR); 31 Jul, GREEN Co (BB, TB); 7 Aug, SAUK Co; 11-12 Sep, MANITOWOC Co (LF); 18 Jul-20 Oct, FOREST, KENOSHA, MARINETTE, PORTAGE, Waukesha, WALWORTH Cos, common at many sites (BB, TB, HK). *Chytonix sensilis*, 22 Jul, JACKSON Co (LF); 26 Jul, JEFFERSON Co (HK). *Plagiomimicus pityochromus*, 10 Aug, WAUKESHA Co (HK).

Xylena thoracica, 19 & 21 Sep, BAYFIELD Co (LF). *Lithophane amanda*, 21-22 May, OCONTO Co (BB, HK). *L. petulca*, 19 Sep, *L. disposita*, 18 Sep, BAYFIELD Co (LF). *L. oriunda*, 24 Oct, PORTAGE Co, 2nd state record (HK). *L. baileyi*, 4 Sep, FOREST Co (TR); 19 & 21 Sep, BAYFIELD Co (LF). *L. tepida*, 21 Sep, *L. fagina*, 18 & 21 Sep, *L. pexata*, 19 Sep, BAYFIELD Co (LF). *L. thaxteri*, 19 Sep, BAYFIELD Co (LF); 5 & 20 Oct, PORTAGE Co (HK). *Xystocheilus rufago*, 10 Apr, SAUK Co, oak barrens (LF); 23 Apr & 1 May, PORTAGE Co (HK). *Epiglaea apiata*, *Psectraglaea carnosus*, 19 & 21 Sep, BAYFIELD Co, barrens (LF). *Chaetoglaea sericea*, 9 Sep & 20 Oct, PORTAGE Co (HK); 19 & 21 Sep, BAYFIELD Co, barrens (LF). *Hillia iris*, 13 Aug, MARINETTE Co (BB); 17 Sep, Waukesha Co (HK); 19 Sep, BAYFIELD Co (LF). *Homohadena badistriga*, 13-14 Jul, Waukesha Co (HK); 13 Aug, MANITOWOC Co (LF). *Oncocnemis piffardi*, 13 Aug, DOUGLAS Co, STATE (JP). *O. riparia*, 15 Jul, MANITOWOC Co, dunes (LF). *Trichoclea artesta*, 12 Jun & 15 Jul, Manitowoc Co, dunes (LF). *Sideridis congermana*, 22 May, JACKSON Co (LF). *Melanchra pulverulenta*, 21 & 24 Jun, BAYFIELD Co (LF). *Lacanobia nevadae*, 24 Jun, Bayfield Co (LF). *L. radix*, 23 & 25 Jun, BAYFIELD Co, STATE, (LF); 27 Jun, MARINETTE Co (HK). *Trichordestra rugosa*, 21 & 24 Jun, BAYFIELD Co (LF). *Anhimella contrahens*, 16 Jul, MANITOWOC Co (LF); 8 & 30 Jul, Outagamie Co (HK). *Copablepharon longipenne*, 13 Aug, Manitowoc Co, abundant on dunes (LF). *Euxoa divergens*, 27 Jun, Marinette Co (BB). *E. quebecensis*, 24 June, Bayfield Co, sand beach (LF). *E. aurulenta*, 11-12 Jun & 15 Jul, MANITOWOC Co, STATE, common on dunes (LF). *Xestia oblata*, 8-9 Jul, FOREST Co (TR); 22 Jul, VILAS Co (JP). *Paradiarsia littoralis*, 27 Jun, Marinette Co (HK); 8 Jul, FOREST Co (TR). *Protolampra rufipectus*, 13-14 Aug, MARINETTE, FOREST Cos (BB, HK). *Heliothis* sp. nr. *phloxiphagus*, 7 Aug, Sauk Co (LF). *Schinia indiana*, 4 & 6 Jun, MONROE Co (J. Maxwell, LF). *S. bina*, 23 Jun, Portage Co, on orange and yellow hawkweed flowers (HK). *S. lucens*, 13 & 26 Jul, WAUKESHA Co; 19-21 Jul KENOSHA Co (HK). *S. nundina*, 7 Aug, SAUK Co (LF). *S. chrysellus*, 13 Sep, PORTAGE Co, STATE, verified by GB (HK).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to know more about the endangered Karner Blue butterfly while visiting the beautiful oak savanna at Fort McCoy? I need volunteers to help search for the larvae of the Karner Blue at 20 small areas where prescribed burns were done last fall or are planned this spring. Search parties are needed for May 21 and 28 (Saturdays), or the following Sundays if rained out. Also, if you would like to help during the week starting May 16, let me know. Please call Judi Maxwell at (608) 255-1789 (Home) or (608) 262-2593. All calls will be returned.

1994 NABA-XERCES FOURTH OF JULY BUTTERFLY COUNT

Ann Swengel

The 20th annual NABA-Xerces Fourth of July Butterfly Count will be held this summer. These counts provide a fun-filled way for participants to help track the butterfly populations of North America. Volunteers select a count area with a 15-mile diameter and conduct a one-day census of all butterflies sighted within that circle. The counts are usually held in the few weeks before or after the Fourth of July.

The North American Butterfly Association (NABA) organizes the counts and published the count reports. These reports provide important information about the geographical distributions and population sizes of the species counted. Comparisons of the results over the years enable monitoring of changes in butterfly populations and study of the effects of weather and habitat changes on the different species throughout the continent. In some years, the butterfly count shows dramatic changes in populations, while other years indicate little fluctuation in numbers. Either way, butterfly counters are always curious about what next year's results will be.

No matter how much or how little butterfly watching you've done, the results of butterfly counting can be surprising and interesting. If a count already exists in your area, please join them for a fascinating day of butterfly counting. One category of participant, garden watcher, allows you to contribute to the count from the comfort of your own home. If there is no count in your area, you may start your own if you know how to identify butterflies. Otherwise, inspire a nature center or butterfly club to start one for you!

The 19th annual NABA-Xerces Fourth of July Butterfly Count was held in the summer of 1993. The 211 counts represent a 12% increase from the 189 counts in 1992. Since 1990 the program has grown 70%. The 1993 counts occurred in 40 states and four Canadian provinces, as well as one state in Mexico and, for the first time, one European country, Bavaria, Germany. Wisconsin was the state with the most counts (15, same as 1992), followed by New York (14 counts, 10 in 1992). Four counts (Berkeley, California, Gilpin County and Highline Canal, Colorado and Lower Pearl River, Louisiana/Mississippi) have been held for all 19 years of the count program. The sum of people participating in each count was 1,653, although some individuals are tallied more than once since they participated in two or more counts. This is a 27% increase from the number of 1992 participants. Two counts tied for the highest species diversity, with 98 species found in 1993 on both the Patagonia and Ramsey Canyon, Arizona counts. The highest diversity ever recorded on the counts north of Mexico occurred in 1992: 102 species on the Patagonia, Arizona count followed by 101 on the Gilpin County, Colorado count. By counting 7,023 individuals, the Cumberland, New Jersey count tallied the most adult butterflies on a single count in 1993.

For more information on the count program, counts in your area, how to conduct a count, or about NABA, please write to the address below (a self-addressed stamped business envelope expedites response). Also, the 1993 count report is available, the price is \$4.00 for NABA members and \$6.00 for non-members. Please mail your order (specify year of report) with check or money order in U. S. dollars payable to NABA to:

NABA International Count Co-editor
909 Birch Street
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913

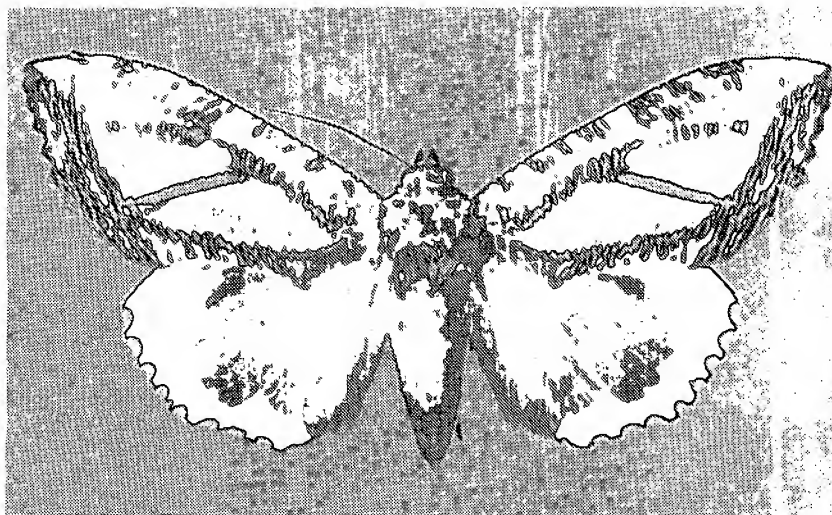
BUTTERFLY SURVEY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Butterfly monitoring is crucial to the conservation of rare species and their habitats. For the second year, Ann Swengel is leading classroom and field sessions to train volunteers to survey rare butterflies at Nature Conservancy preserves and state natural areas. The species to be surveyed this year inhabit prairie and barrens, and include the Cobweb, Dusted, Ottoe and Leonard's Skippers, Frosted Elfin, Karner Blue and Regal Fritillary. Anyone is welcome to come to the free training sessions, which must be completed to become an official survey participant (exceptions are made for those with prior butterfly experience). For more information, contact: The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Chapter, 333 W. Mifflin Street, Suite 107, Madison, WI 53703, or phone (608) 251-8140.

APOSTLE ISLAND MYSTERY MOTH

Les Ferge

An extraordinary moth record was brought to my attention in late September 1993 by Mike and Julie Van Stappen, of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. In the early morning hours of September 12 while preparing to do a migratory bird count on Outer Island, the northeasternmost of Lake Superior's Apostle Islands, they caught the specimen of *Eudocima materna* (L.) illustrated in the accompanying photo as it fluttered around the Coleman lantern in their tent. With a 98 millimeter wingspread (almost 4 inches), this moth is significantly larger than any of the local *Catocala* species. Its shiny gray-brown forewings and striking orange and black hindwings signaled its alien origin, even to observers not well acquainted with moths.



Little information on U. S. occurrences of this moth has been published. Brief mention of the species (as *Ophideres materna*) is made by Holland (1903) and Kimball (1965). Both authors state that *materna* is a stray from the tropics, occasionally turning up in Florida. Given only that information, its presence on an island in Lake Superior is most baffling. It seems most plausible

that the moth or pupa was a stowaway on a ship that had passed through the tropics, destined for Duluth-Superior via the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes. It likely escaped from the ship only to become marooned on the nearest island, where cold temperatures undoubtedly inhibited its activity. Its remarkably good condition would support the contention that it had not flown far.

It also seems remotely possible that the moth could have flown north, possibly aided by strong winds or storm systems. Some of its close Catocaline relatives are known to stray far north of their breeding range. For example, *Ascalapha odorata* (Black Witch), *Thysania zenobia* (Owl Moth) and *Alabama argillacea* (Cotton Leafworm) have been recorded a number of times in Wisconsin, and some of these specimens are in surprisingly good shape for the distance they must have travelled.

LITERATURE CITED

- Holland, W. J. (1903). The Moth Book. Doubleday, Page and Company, New York.
- Kimball, Charles P. (1965). The Lepidoptera of Florida. Division of Plant Industry, Florida Dept. of Agriculture.

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